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SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION Office of International Corporate Finance 450 Fifth Street, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 USA

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For the attention of Mrs Felicia KUNG

Ref: 82-3361

Subject: Exemption Request for ADR's und r Rule 12g3-2 (b)

December 18, 2002

Dear Mrs KUNG,

We are pleased to inform you that, in his meeting dated December, 17, 2002, the board of directors of our Company decided to pay an interim dividend of Euro 0,90 per share, for the 2002 fiscal year.

This payment will be paid on Tuesday the 14th of January, 2003.

Yours sincerely,

Laurent LACASSAGNE Chief Financial Officier PROCESSED

FEB 0 3 2003

THOMSON FINANCIAL

CC:

Gérard LEROUX Antoine PERNOD